

# “WORTHY WORKERS FOR THE SAVIOR”

## II TIMOTHY 4:9-13

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### INTRODUCTION

Paul’s longing for fellowship with those human companions closest to him is so like that of “the Man of Sorrows and Acquainted with Grief” who longed for the companionship of his inner circle, Peter, James, and John in the hour of His severest trial in Gethsemane. As we look at Paul’s final words in his final letter this week and next, one of the things we notice immediately is the number of individual workers with various strengths and weaknesses, with various abilities and different parts to play for the cause of Christ, workers who all helped the spread of the gospel in Rome and around the world, most of whom we know very little about but nevertheless were very important to Paul and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

*One commentator points out that there were at least 100 different men and women mentioned in Acts and in Paul’s epistles who were his helpers in ministry. He could not do the work by himself. He needed them!*

### YOU ARE NEEDED IN THE WORK OF THE LORD; YOUR LOCAL CHURCH NEEDS YOU. ENLIST NOW. GET ON THE FRONT LINES FOR JESUS!

- I. TIMOTHY: PAUL’S FAITHFUL CO-WORKER (9; cf. v. 21)—“Make every effort to come to me soon!”
- II. DEMAS WAS NEEDED, BUT FORSOOK PAUL (10—*same verb as in v. 16*)
  - A. He had been a valued worker—Col. 4:14; Philemon 24
  - B. He Left at the time of Paul’s greatest need
  - C. He Left because he “loved the **now age**”—this present world. What is it?
    - “That floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations at any time current in the world”; it is hard to define, but is very real and is the actual “moral or immoral atmosphere which at every moment of our lives **we inhale, again inevitably to exhale**, the subtle informing spirit of the world of men who are living alienated and apart from God”. In the Pilgrim’s Progress, Bunyan portrayed Demas “as the keeper of a silver mine at the Hill Lucre” (Wiersbe, 160).
      1. Contrast v. 8—“**love** His appearing
      2. Contrast the **future** “appearance” of Christ with what the **present** world has to offer.
      3. Compare Paul’s words in I Tim. 6:17 with this statement.
        - He wanted to avoid the deprivations and dangers connected with Paul.
        - He wanted to preserve what he owned and the wealth he possessed.
  - D. He left for Thessalonica—His home? His place of business? A safer place?
- III. CRESCENS WENT TO GALATIA TO CARRY ON THE WORK THERE (10).
  - We know nothing else about this man in the NT.
  - Some tradition connects him with the establishment of a couple churches in southern France—“Gaul.”
  - If Paul had gone to Spain—very likely—he may well have helped start churches in S. France also.
  - It is more likely that Galatia here has the meaning it usually does in Paul’s writings—the Roman province in Asia Minor where Paul ministered on his 1<sup>st</sup> two missionary journeys.
  - If so, he went to support the works dear to Paul’s heart.
- IV. TITUS WENT TO DALMATIA (10)

- Southern part of Illyricum—modern day Yugoslavia—which now is divided into several states.
- Titus had left Crete at Paul’s request and had come to Nicopolis, had been with Paul in Rome after his capture, now was out in ministry elsewhere.
- In the past he had ministered with Paul in Jerusalem, and had served in Corinth.
- He was a reliable and faithful worker.

V. LUKE WAS THE FAITHFUL PHYSICIAN AND CO-TRAVELER AND CO-WORKER OF PAUL (11)

- See the “we” passages of Acts—even traveling with Paul on the ship to Rome.
- See Col 4:24—“the beloved physician.”
  - Hendriksen also remarks that both Paul and Luke were “educated, big-hearted, broad-spirited, and sympathetic. Above all, both were believers and missionaries”
  - What a good man Luke was, to leave his lucrative private practice to personally attend to the itinerant preacher in all of his arduous travel, privations, attacks on his person such as stoning, scourging, beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, etc. Paul was always at the ragged edge of exhaustion because of his incessant and intense work and long difficult journeys. Luke had tenderly cared for his wounds, comforted him in his distresses, and guarded him against diseases. Here we see a Gentile and a Jew in perfect harmony and fellowship.
  - Paul’s statement may also be intended to point out that Paul needs more help; he and Luke cannot do it all! Surely there was much ministry to be done with believers in Rome.

VI. PAUL NEEDED MARK—TIMOTHY MUST “PICK HIM UP AND BRING HIM.”

- Mark had formerly forsaken the missionary team of Barnabas and Paul at Perga in Acts 13:13.
- Paul had refused to take him with him on the 2<sup>nd</sup> journey, & parted ways with Barnabas over him (15:36-41).
- Mark proved reliable later and was with Paul in his 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment—Col. 4:10, and Paul commended.
- Mark worked with Peter in Rome (I Pet. 5:13).
- Here, Paul says that Mark is “useful to me for service—**ministry**, both personal and spiritual.

VII. TYCHICUS WAS THE BEARER OF THIS LETTER AND TIMOTHY’S RELIEF WORKER WHILE ABSENT (12).

- The past tense in an “epistolary aorist.”
- A traveling companion of Paul (Acts 20:4); with Paul in his first imprisonment (Col. 4:7).
- Carrier of the epistles to the Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon.
- The verb “sent” is *apostello*—from which we get “apostle.” He was sent on an important mission.

VIII. CARPUS WAS THE KEEPER OF PAUL’S CLOAK, BOOKS, AND PARCHMENTS (13).

- We know nothing else of this man.
- He was very trustworthy and selfless to be able and willing to keep such valuable items.
- Paul needed the cloak because of the cold dungeon and coming winter.
- Paul needed his books—especially Biblical books—and precious parchments.

CONCLUSION

Notice that Paul, even from prison, is the great administrator of missions!

Notice that Paul kept diligently studying—even in prison! Notice how important ministry was to him.

O that we had more men like him in ministry today!

O that we had more faithful workers like these listed by Paul in II Timothy 4:9-13!

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